

## Report: Slumlord Steve Croman to Cop Plea Deal with Light Sentence

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*Steve Croman on Mott Street*

One year ago, Steve Croman was charged with twenty felonies (<http://www.boweryboogie.com/2016/05/slumlord-steve-croman-arrested-faces-20-felony-charges-fraudulent-activity/>) including grand larceny, falsifying business records, tax fraud, conspiring to defraud, and offering a false instrument. Not to mention a simultaneous civil lawsuit for allegedly “directing an illegal operation that wields harassment, coercion and fraud to force rent-regulated tenants out of their apartments.” He’s been free on \$500,000 bail ever since.

Now, here’s some deflating news for opponents of the notorious slumlord.

Despite the string of serious charges, Croman might nevertheless get off easy. He’s reportedly copping a plea deal for a slap-on-the-wrist sentence. According to the *New York Post* (<http://pagesix.com/2017/05/02/bernie-madoff-of-landlords-to-cop-plea-deal/>) (via Page Six), Croman’s attorney, Ben Brafman, seeks an arrangement that includes eight months in prison, plus a fine between \$5 and \$10 million dollars.

The owner of 140 apartment buildings, Croman is said to be thrilled he will get off so lightly, and so is his wife, Harriet, who is part of a wealthy clique of Upper East Side moms.

Sources said Croman might have to sell some pieces in his vast art collection, but not the palatial double townhouse he renovated on East 72nd Street with two swimming pools, nor his oceanfront Hamptons estate in Sagaponack.

His legal battles certainly haven’t stopped (<http://www.boweryboogie.com/2017/02/facing-25-years-prison-slumlord-steve-croman-spotted-wilds-mott-street/>) him from purported harassment, though. Just look to 159 Stanton Street (<http://www.boweryboogie.com/tag/159-stanton-street/>), his tenement property that was stripped of its fire-stopping material and became a purported death trap for more than a year (<http://www.boweryboogie.com/2017/03/fearing-fiery-death-in-croman-owned-159-stanton-street/>) (unbeknownst to residents). Not to mention the brief displacement of two tenants thanks to ceiling collapse.



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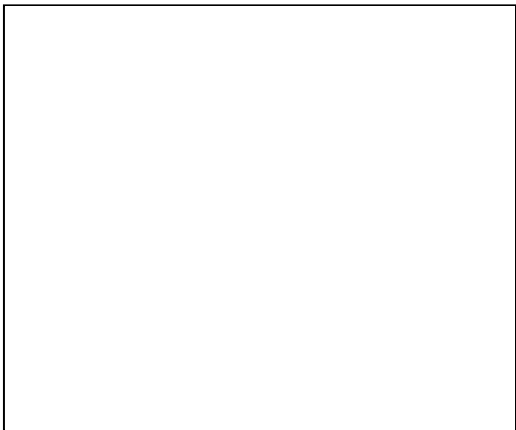
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**Steven Croman Hater** • 2 hours ago

I lived in one of his apartments and it was the worst place ever. I am surprised the building did not explode. Rats, Leaks, Mold, Cut electric lines, cut phone lines, only had scalding hot water - day after day - which was very dangerous for my baby daughter and I.

This man has no conscious and money is his only god. He had no remorse or concern for his tenants that were forced to live in the death trap he created. His trick is to put in shiny nice appliances and then put the tenants through renovation hell.

I had a neighbor who was 90 years old and lived in a rent stabilized unit, and Croman actually turned off the heat in his apartment, during the winter, in order to get him to leave, so he could renovate and jack up the rent. I saw this elderly man sitting out side on his stoop shivering and looking despondent. I asked him why he was sitting outside in the cold weather. He replied, "It is colder inside my apartment of 30 years. The landlord turned off the heat". I went out and bought him a space heater, which was a hazard unto itself, and not a great solution, and tried to explain to him to be very careful with it. This man has probably passed on from natural causes at this point, but I will always remember his haunted eyes and the look of utter desperation and confusion.

Any person who could turn off the heat on an elderly man clearly has no soul and is the worst kind of predator. May Steven Croman, Steve Croman the slumlord rot in jail and hopefully some of his new room mates will recognize him for the scum bag he is and show him how the other side lives in prison. I lived at 212 East 25th St. back in about 2003 -2005.

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**Donnie Moder** • 10 hours ago

Does seem like a mere slap on the wrist for Croman. The system does not really work to protect tenants against landlords who want to take advantage of tenants. Ben Brafman is the best defense attorney money can buy.

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